



Congressman

BOB MENENDEZ

Legislative Update



Spring 2003

Dear Friend:

As your representative in Washington, one of my responsibilities is to ensure that Union City receives its fair share of federal funding. As a member of the House Leadership, I have worked closely with local leaders and concerned citizens to obtain funding for a number of worthwhile projects that will benefit you, your family, and your community.

Community Safety

Since I began serving in Congress, one of my top priorities has been to improve safety in our communities. Over the past six years, I have helped secure almost \$4.1 million from the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) for the Union City Police Department. This money has been used to hire new police officers, provide officer training to improve interactions with communities, and obtain equipment and support systems. Most recently, in August 2002, I announced that Union City had been awarded a grant of over \$156,000 for the purchase of time-saving technologies to enhance community policing. This grant will help ensure that our law-enforcement officers have the best technology available to protect us and keep our neighborhoods safe.

In addition, I secured a \$250,000 appropriations earmark through the Department of Justice/COPS Law Enforcement Technology program for Union City to replace an obsolete communication system with state-of-the-art communication technology. This money will allow all emergency services in Union City to use one interoperable communication system. In times of emergency, it is vitally important that those first responders who risk their lives for our safety be able to communicate with each other without fear of interruption.

Transportation

In February, I secured an earmark of \$1 million for traffic signalization improvements in Union City. Specifically, these funds will be used to replace aging and malfunctioning traffic signals in conjunction with the revitalization of the Bergenline Avenue Corridor Urban Enterprise Zone area.

Housing

Over the past six years, I have helped secure more than \$21.6 million in Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) assistance for Union City. These monies have been used to modernize and manage improvements of public housing, fighting drugs and drug-related crime in public housing communities, and addressing homeless needs through public services and facilities. These projects have improved the lives of our residents and invigorated our community and economy.

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Education

Education is another important priority that I have focused on during my time in the House of Representatives. It is the most valuable resource we have to prepare our children to be successful and productive citizens, and to prepare the nation to compete in the global environment. I believe we need to take proper measures to assure that our children are prepared to succeed.

Earlier this year, I was able to secure an appropriation of \$200,000 in the Office of Library Services' Grants and Administration to support the revitalization of the Union City Library's collection, particularly with respect to Spanish-language material. This funding provides the staff support needed to properly serve the community's immigrant population.

My work here in Congress is focused on improving the lives of all residents in the 13th Congressional District, especially during these challenging times. Whether we are concerned about our national or economic security, I am committed to working tirelessly so that each and every one of you will be safe and secure.

I hope you find this update useful and informative. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of assistance to you on these or any other issues in the future.

Sincerely,



Robert Menendez
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C., 20515

Official Business


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This mailing was prepared, published and mailed at taxpayer expense.

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